

Juvenile Repeat Offender Prevention Project

In FY 1996/97, the Legislature established the Repeat Offender Prevention Project (ROPP). The enabling legislation named seven counties to receive state grants for three-year pilot projects targeting youth who display behavior that may lead to delinquency and recidivism. The counties are Fresno, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Mateo, and Solano.

ROPP targets two groups: "at-risk youth" as identified in Los Angeles by the Multi-Agency At-Risk Youth Committee and the "8 percent population" as identified by Orange County research as the group of first-time offenders having the greatest potential of becoming chronic, repeat offenders. Appendix H provides a description of ROPP programs. While each county designed its program to meet unique needs, all ROPP programs include the following major components:

- ✓ youth and family focus;
- ✓ multi-disciplinary team assessment;
- ✓ formal case and service planning; and
- ✓ "wraparound" approach of integrated service delivery.

In FY 1996/97, the BOC finalized contracts with all seven counties. The 1997/98 state budget allocated supplemental grant funds to these counties. Figure 10 shows total state funding to each county through FY 1997/98. The 1998/99 state budget appropriated an additional \$3.8 million to support the ROPP, and added the city and county of San Francisco as a participant. The BOC will report allocation of these new funds in the next biennial legislative report.

Figure 10

REPEAT OFFENDER PREVENTION PROJECT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS GRANT FUNDING

County	FY 1996/97	FY 1997/98	Total
Fresno	\$400,000	\$410,605	\$810,605
Humboldt	\$400,000	\$408,405	\$808,405
Los Angeles	\$662,500	\$645,287	\$1,307,787
Orange	\$662,500	\$667,488	\$1,329,988
San Diego	\$400,000	\$405,205	\$805,205
San Mateo	\$400,000	\$406,505	\$806,505
Solano	\$400,000	\$406,505	\$806,505
Total:	\$3,325,000	\$3,350,000	\$6,675,000

Each county must conduct a formal program evaluation that compares eligible juveniles who receive program services (treatment group) to a like group of juveniles who receive standard probation services (comparison group). In addition to unique local measures of effectiveness, all programs are reporting common outcome measures (some required by the Legislature) to the BOC. These include: juvenile arrests; successful completion of probation, victim restitution and/or community service work; subsequent petitions to declare the minor a ward of the juvenile court pursuant to Section 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, including the alleged offense and its disposition; time served in local or state correctional facilities; days of school attendance; and grade point average.

As with the Challenge Grant program, BOC staff provides project oversight and needed technical assistance to county ROPP programs. BOC staff also participates with local program staff and evaluators in quarterly project meetings. As required, the BOC is submitting annual status reports to the Legislature and will submit a final report that includes evaluation results of each program by December 31, 2001.